

Dear FCC Staff:

I believe that it will not be in the public interest for you to lift the cross-ownership ban to allow further media consolidation. Think back to why this ban was made in the first place. You surely know that media concentration can endanger the public by not insuring fair, open, and complete coverage of the news. Why FCC chair Michael Powell wants to change this is beyond me. Contrary to his belief that "the oppressor here is regulation," I find that regulation is usually done to protect the public interest.

Several conglomerates such as News Corp and the Tribune Co. are already in violation of the law.

As I see it, we are already getting less news than ever. All too often, one event takes over most of the time and coverage for days, weeks or months. For example, everything was about Rep. Condit until September 11. After that, nothing about Condit.

One fear some of us have, is that if one company owns all of a city's tv stations, radio stations, cable company and its only newspaper, the newspaper will be absorbed by the television industry in an attempt to save money. Too me, this means there would be even less news, less diversity and more commercialization.

Please do not lift the ban on cross-ownership.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Biesanz